IRONDALE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Bark Lake Cultural Developments

DECEMBER 2016

Bark Lake Cultural Developments

Charitable No.
80487 0087 RR0001

9 member

Board of Directors

Historical

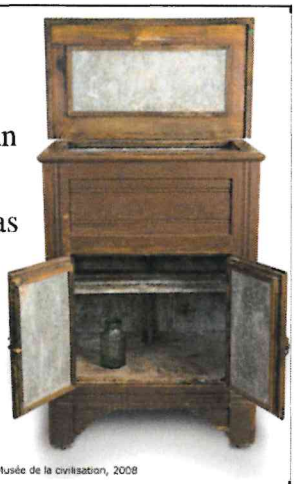
@IrondaleOntario.ca

Host your next function at Irondale's heritage church

Rental Information Contact
Glenda 705-447-2679 or
Carol 705-457-8438

we accept PayPal™ on IrondaleOntario.ca and for Event Ticket Purchases and Cash/Cheque/Credit Cards and CanadaHelps.org giving made simple for Donations

Making Giant Ice Cubes?



© Musée de la civilisation, 2008

Before electricity, many people had an ice box in their home. This was where they kept their perishables cold. In present time we use an electric or propane refrigerator.

Remember the saying "heat rises and cold drops". A block of ice was put in the top of the ice box—the raised lid area of the picture to the right. The cold from the ice would keep the items in the bottom section cool without them getting wet from melting ice. A hole and tube system took the water from the melting ice to a pan placed beneath the ice box. I've been told it was generally an older child's job to keep that pan emptied.

So where did the family get their blocks of ice for the ice box?

The cutting of ice for refrigeration was an important winter industry. It had begun in the 1800's and was still a common practice in Irondale into the 1940s and 50s.

When the lake was solid enough to hold a man, an area of the lake would be shoveled free of snow. Each time it snowed someone would have to go out and shovel it again. By keeping the snow off that portion of the lake, the frost would penetrate further thereby making thicker ice.

When the lakes were frozen enough and the ice was about a foot thick, late January into February, the shovelled area would be scored into 16 to 20 inch square blocks using a pit saw.

The blocks were then removed from the lake using a pair of ice tongs, put on a slide/sleigh and hauled to the ice house for storage In order to keep the ice cold, it was covered with sawdust from the surrounding saw mills. It would remain frozen for many months, often until the following winter.

In the case of Irondale's ice - it was taken off Devils Lake, packed into sawdust filled train cars and shipped to the United States of America.

The grey jay is named Canada's national bird by the Royal Canadian Geographic Society.
Read more about this bird on page 7.

Across Canada Dinner

Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017

Robert McCausland
Memorial Centre
1 Community Centre Rd, Gooderham, ON

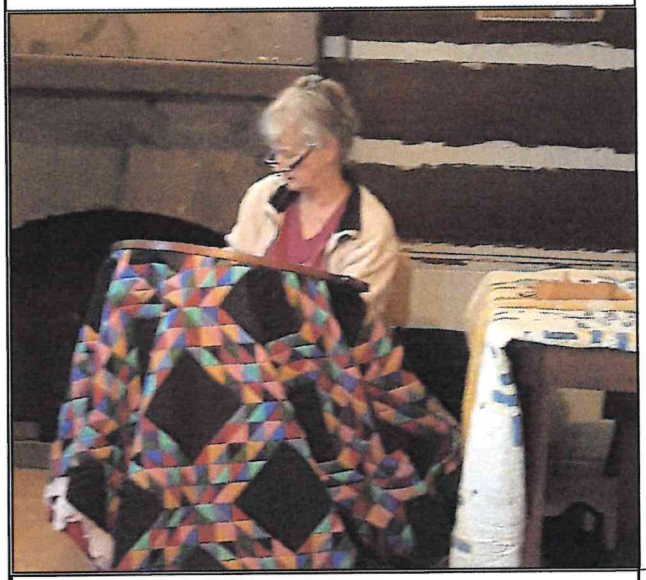
Doors open 5pm, Dinner 6pm

Cash Bar Available

Celebrate 150 years
Enjoy dishes from across this great country.

$20 per person

www.IrondaleOntario.ca for tickets or 705-457-8438



Esther Graham working diligently on a quilt - demonstrating a traditional craft to the many people that passed through the Heritage Complex at the Kinmount Fair, Sept 3-5, 2016

"Good friends are like quilts - they age with you, yet never lose their warmth."

Nature's Healing Touch

Michelle Lewis B. A., B.Ed
Karuna II Reiki® Master/Teacher

705-286-6596

www.mindenreiki.com

Condolences to the family of

Hazel Maxwell on her passing
August 27, 2016.

The Creator has called you home.
Like a bird you will soar to his arms to live forever without pain or worry. Till we meet again.

The Veterans of Haliburton County
A HighlanderTV Production

The year 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. It was a reminder that the time left to tell the stories of those who served was running short.

The Highlander saw the opportunity to capture something rare, valuable and urgent: the voices of our veterans.

Veterans interviewed are:

- Billy Pickard
- Lorne Dinesen
- Bob MacBrien
- Mabel Brannigan
- Len Crawford, and Parry Huiser.
- Ted Proacher
- Chuck Viner
- Ralph Mintz
- Murray Whetung
- Martin Hofland

These interviews can be watched at your leisure. Simply type the following into the address bar in your internet browser.
www.thehighlander.ca/the-veterans-of-haliburton-county

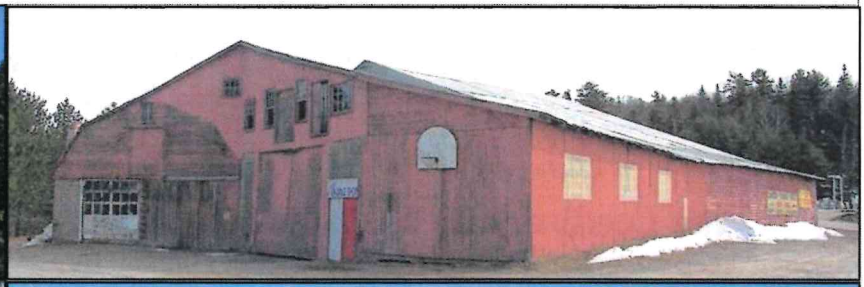
Thank you to The Minden Hills Cultural Centre for sharing these videos as well as *The Liberators* by Terence Macarney-Filgate at a special showing on November 5, 2016.

Sheila Petrie and Heather Gauldie

Won Tickets To Our Events

Because Their Ballot Came Out Of The Barrel.

Thank You To All That Responded To The Email Contest.



Another piece of history meets its demise.

Remember the big orange barn in Minden, at the corner of Hwy 35 and Cty Rd 21? Many will remember it as Norm Mills Auction Barn, perhaps enjoying hours of auction banter while waiting for that special item to come up. Norm was instrumental in liquidating the items that Twp of Minden Hills deemed redundant. Fred & I purchased the 'old' table that once saw lawyers sitting at it during Court and the council members around it at the monthly Council meetings. It is now our kitchen table.

This building had a life before auction sales. It was once the Arena (built 1949), and sat on the same spot where the Minden Hills Township Office sits today.

That property once upon a time was flooded to make an outdoor skating rink. A good number of excellent hockey players skated here as young men. "Most of these boys enlisted in the Armed Forces and on their return took up where they had left off. With the prestige they had given the community and their efforts through four years of warfare, it was only befitting the citizens of Minden and surrounding district, that a Memorial Centre be built which was accomplished by pledges, labour and the backing of this project to the hilt. During the first year of OHA competition, our arena collapsed from heavy snow load and had to be completely rebuilt. Again our townspeople stepped in the breach. Debentures were sold ..."

In the early '70s the building was purchased, dismantled and rebuilt on the corner of 35 & 21 to become part of the Walkers Lumber business. Norm Mills purchased the property in 1982 for his auction business.

It is obvious by the pictures above, and for those that watched the building come down - there were several additions and existing buildings that made up the auction barn as we knew it.

It is always sad when a piece of our history is gone - whether from neglect, accident or intentional. Canada's history isn't very old - we should be doing all we can to hang on to what we have.

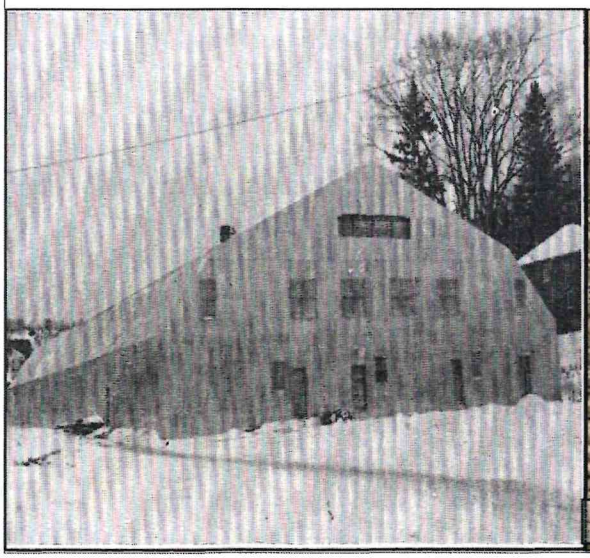


Photo part of Minden Hills Museum collection

To place the arena building in modern Minden, I have noted two areas for you.

Farmer's Market corner

Existing Fire Hall

For further info & pics please see Chad Ingram's article at www.mindentimes.ca/minden-landmark-comes-down?id=875

Wish to thank Bill Kulas of ReMax Realty in Minden for the pictures on the top right of this article.

Klompmakers

Heating, Air Conditioning, H.R.V.'s,
Fireplaces & In Floor Radiant

FRIGIDAIRE
COMFORT THAT FITS YOUR LIFE

2490 Marsdale
Peterborough, ON K9L 1R4 **705-741-3922**

On The Spot Variety

DOWNTOWN MINDEN

Barbara and Tina

118 Bobcaygeon Road,
Minden, ON K0M 2K0
Telephone:
705-286-6868
Email: onthespot_minden@hotmail.com

"Carol – you are in deep water and need a "lifesaver"!!"

I certainly found out that you read your newsletters!! I apparently misinformed you, our faithful readers, in my September 2016, pg 9 & 10 article.

Gordon Smith writes — *"Re the "Hoop"for train messages: I remember seeing the Y type used up at French River Station, ON in 1938. This was a flag station, so most trains went right on through without stopping. The engineer, fireman or conductor on the train plucked the string and the message off the "Y" when the train passed the station, the stationmaster kept hold of the handle. There were 2 clips that let the string go when it was pulled."*

Grenville Schrader was quick to send me a number of emails to correct my faux pas. The hoops the I indicated were mail hoops were indeed *train order hoops.*

Grenville writes "Train orders—called the 'flimsy' or the 'tissue' together with its attendant Operators—Train Order Offices and Orders were jealously guarded—its right to such work. The Exclusive work rules had for year prohibited the adoption of a more modern system. The train orders were made of 'onion skin'. To make extra copies, we used double back carbon paper and a steel plate under it. We used a stylus for writing as you had to press on the stylus. The maximum number of copies you could make of a train order was '7'. Train orders were known as 'flimsies'. Train orders were made for the Engineer (head end) and Conductor (Tail end) of train. If they missed getting a train order, it was their responsibility to stop the train and walk back to get it!!! A train could not leave a station or operate on a railway line without a train order!!! "

He continues "The I B & O between Howland Junction and Bancroft did not have any Agent/Operators (on Branch Lines such as the I B & O - Caretakers at the station could not handle train orders. Furthermore, Railway employees did not handle "Royal Mail". There were Post Office – Railway Mail Clerks who handled Canada Post on the trains. Percy Proctor, was the Irondale Postmaster – as well, Percy carried the Mail to and from the train at Irondale Station and the Post Office! YEP! even your "Registered Mail" was signed for by the Railway Mail Clerk on the train!!!"

Grenville also 'slapped my fingers' on the whistle stops. "A whistle stop is a small station between main stations on a Branch Line. They were known as 'Flag Stops'. Flag stops did not have hoops, just appropriate lanterns or flags for passengers to flag the train to stop and pick them up."

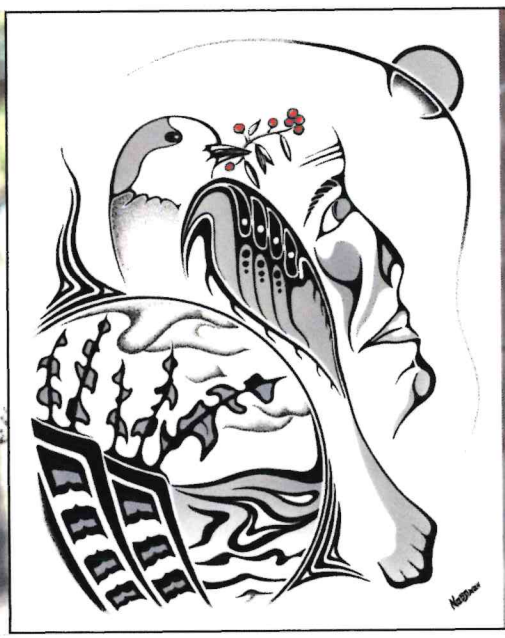
Gren sent the picture below of Herman Snider—Gananoque Junction hooping up the train orders.

Grenville Schrader is a "former Order of Railroad Telegrapher" and between 1950 and 1961 - used both the bamboo train order hoop and the "Y" hoop with bond cord to deliver train orders to trains.

THANKS Gord & Grenville,
I'm glad to stand corrected!

Anishinaabe stories about the mischievous, wise gray jay

By Niigaan Sinclair, on why the gray jay is important to the Anishinaabe people.



The gray jay — or whiskey jack or Canada jay — features prominently in the traditional stories and art of Indigenous peoples such as the Anishinaabe, to whom it is *Gwiingwiishi.* (Artwork: Mark Nadjiwan; Photo: Steve Phillips/Can Geo Photo Club)

I'm writing about an old relative, one that goes by many names. To the Cree, she is *wisikejack.* To the French, she is *mésangeai du Canada.* To the English, she is gray jay. To my people, the Anishinaabe, she is *Gwiingwiishi.*

Gwiingwiishi has lived with us since the beginning. She is a life giver, a trick player and one of the smartest beings in Creation. Everything she does challenges thought and perception, gifting teachings of responsibility, relationships and life.

Many say she is a food-stealer, but she is brave in her fearlessness, bright in her mistakes. She is kind to those who are kind back, harder on those who need a dose of humility. She is the best parts of all parts. Unlike many birds, she stays among our lodges all year, watching, playing and calling for our attention constantly. She is fierce in her protection of her family and community, travelling only with her relatives and taking care of her young. She hides her food in tree caches, as she is constantly on the move, constantly going and returning, constantly visiting all. Gwiingwiishi is a great, wise teacher, and there is an old story that tells of her abilities to give gifts.

One day long ago, our great trickster-transformer Nanabozho changed himself into Gwiingwiishi and sat in a tree above two blind brothers as they began to share a meal. As the first man reached for a piece of meat, Gwiingwiishi flew down and stole it. Startled, the man asked his brother if he had taken his meat. The brother replied no, reaching for a piece himself. As he was about to place the food in his mouth, Gwiingwiishi flew down and stole it, too, then returned to the tree to watch. The brothers accused one another of stealing, arguing with fear that one was trying to hurt the other. Just before they came to blows, Gwiingwiishi let out a huge laugh. Suddenly, the two men realized that Nanabozho was playing a trick, teaching them to not let petty things come between them. Nanabozho transformed back into a human but left a spirit of play and gift giving within Gwiingwiishi, something she still shares today. Her lesson? That it is only in our bravery, resilience and commitments to one another that we can find growth.

This article was reproduced with the direct permission of the author .... Niigaan Sinclair is an associate professor in the department of native studies at the University of Manitoba, a writer and the co-editor of *Manitowapow: Aboriginal Writings from the Land of Water.* The article also appeared in the OMFRC - Newsletter November 2016. Thank You Niigaan Sinclair.

Great minds think alike. An article on the Gray Jay can be found in the December issue of the Kinmount Gazette. Check it out as well at www.Kinmount Gazette.ca

Looking for more information on a healthier diet?
Monica Keefer
705-455-2253
http://mkeefer.canada.juiceplus.com

AUTUMN MARKETING
PRINTING
PUBLISHING
PROMOTIONS

When you want to make a good impression!
2158 Horseshoe Lake Road,
Minden, ON K0M 2K0
(705) 286-1317
Fax: (705) 286-6305

En Route Towing

En Route Towing
705-286-6934
705-457-7793
24 Hr Service
Damage-free local & long distance towing
Towing for cars, trucks, motorcycles & RVs
Flatbed Towing
Fuel Delivery
Tilt & Load Service
Lockout Service
Roadside Assistance
Car Battery Boosts

~ Irondale 2017 Calendar of Events ~

PLEASE Hang this page on your refrigerator or next to your calendar so you don't miss out!

Sat. Feb 18	**Across Canada Dinner** held at the Gooderham Community Centre. Enjoy dishes from across Canada as we celebrate 150 years. Tickets $20
Sat. Mar. 18	**St. Patrick's Pancake Breakast** held at the Irondale Community Centre. Treats while supplies last. $10 per person 10am to 1 pm.
Sat. Apr. 8	**Fish 'N Fowl Feast**, held at the Gooderham Community Centre. Doors open 5pm. Dinner at 6pm—fish, turkey, potatoes, vegetables, salad & dessert. Loonie auction action after dessert. $20 per person
Sun, Apr. 16	**Easter**
May	**Victorian Luncheon**, to be announced. Stay tuned
Sat. May 27	**Concert?** at the Irondale church. Stay tuned
Sat. June 17	**Highlands Food & Beverage Showcase**. Outdoor venue — Wintergreen Pancake Barn, 3325 Gelert Rd, Minden.
Sat. July 15	**Wild Game Dinner & Auction**. Doors open 5pm. Buffet served at 6pm. Loonie auction action follows dessert. $20per person .
Sat. July 29 Sun. July 30	**Irondale's Ball Tournament**. Teams vie for the coveted trophy & prizes. Great fun for the whole family.
Sat. Aug 26	**Concert?** at the Irondale church. Stay tuned
Sat. Sept 23	**Irondale's Family Harvest Festival**. Noon to 4pm. Vendors, Food, Prizes, Games, Displays, Tours — all on the Irondale Church property
Sun. Oct. 8	**Thanksgiving Service** - 7pm at Irondale Church. Join us between your main course and dessert, for the traditional service of thanks. You will feel better for it!
Sat. Nov 11	**Hunter's Dinner** served at the Irondale Community Centre, offered from 5pm while supplies last. $15 per person

We strive to keep our events as planned.
Check our website for details.
www.IrondaleOntario.ca

Tickets to events can be purchased online through the website, text/call 705-457-8438 or email historical@IrondaleOntario.ca

Please support our Advertisers.
Let them know you saw their advert in the Irondale Newsletter.